

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A region of a gene construct encoding an antibody-based fusion protein, the region including:
at its 5' end, nucleotides encoding at least a portion of an IgG1 ~~or IgG3~~ CH2 domain, with a mutation or a deletion at one or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of Leu₂₃₄, Leu₂₃₅, Gly₂₃₆, Gly₂₃₇, and Asn₂₉₇, said mutation or deletion reducing binding affinity for an Fc receptor, and wherein said portion comprises a domain required for immunoglobulin protection receptor (FcRp) binding affinity, and at its 3' end, nucleotides encoding a non-Ig protein.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) An antibody-based fusion protein for administration to a mammal, said fusion protein comprising at least a portion of a CH2 domain, wherein said portion comprises a domain required for immunoglobulin protection receptor (FcRp) binding affinity, linked to a non-Ig protein, wherein said CH2 domain is an IgG3 CH2 domain comprising a mutation or a deletion that reduces binding affinity for an Fc receptor, and said antibody-based fusion protein has a longer circulating half-life *in vivo* than said antibody-based fusion protein without said mutation or deletion, wherein said portion of heavy chain comprises at least a portion of an IgG3 constant region, wherein the portion of the IgG3 constant region comprises a mutation or a deletion at one or more amino acids selected from the group consisting of Leu₂₈₁, Leu₂₈₂, Gly₂₈₃, Asn₃₄₄, and Pro₃₇₈.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein said Fc receptor is selected from the group consisting of FcγRI, FCγRII and FCγRIII.
7. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein said non-Ig protein is a cytokine.
8. (Currently Amended) The region of claim 7, wherein said cytokine is an interleukin.

9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 8, wherein said interleukin is interleukin-2.
- 11-26. (Canceled)
27. (Currently Amended) An antibody-based fusion protein for administration to a mammal, the fusion protein comprising a variable domain and ~~a portion of~~ an IgG4 CH2 domain, the C-terminus of which is linked to the N-terminus of a non-Ig protein, wherein said antibody-based fusion protein has a longer circulating half-life *in vivo* than an antibody-based fusion protein comprising ~~a portion of~~ an IgG1 CH2 domain linked to said non-Ig protein.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Previously Presented) The region of claim 1, wherein the region is fused at its 5' end to nucleotides encoding an immunoglobulin hinge region.
30. (Currently Amended) The region of claim 1, wherein the region includes nucleotides encoding, in a 5' to 3' orientation, the at least a portion of an IgG1 ~~or an IgG3~~ CH2 domain and at least a portion of a CH3 domain.